



Office of Congressional &  
Intergovernmental Relations

## Office of Congressional & Intergovernmental Relations

### WEEKLY RECAP

**Gov't Funding** Congress has until midnight, Feb. 15 to pass the remaining 7 spending bills in order to avoid a partial government shut down. Congress has already funded roughly 75% of the federal government through September 2019. The bills that need approval would fund the EPA, the departments of Agriculture, Commerce, Justice, Homeland Security, Interior, State, Transportation and Housing and Urban Development, as well as several other agencies.

**Nominations** On January 2<sup>nd</sup>, Alex Dunn was confirmed by Voice Vote by the Senate to be AA for OCSPP.

On January 3<sup>rd</sup>, Chad McIntosh was confirmed by Voice Vote by the Senate to be AA for OITA.

On January 16<sup>th</sup>, the Senate Committee on Environment and Public Works held a hearing on the Nomination of Acting Administrator Wheeler to be Administrator of the EPA.

On January 16<sup>th</sup>, Peter Wright was renominated by President Trump to be AA for OLEM.

During the course of Acting Administrator Wheeler's nomination process, he has met with Senators Barrasso, Boozman, Braun, Capito, Cardin, Carper, Collins, Cramer, Cruz, Duckworth, Ernst, Fischer, Gillibrand, Grassley, Hawley, Inhofe, King, Lee, Manchin, Markey, McConnell, Merkley, Risch, Romney, Rounds, Schumer, Rick Scott, Sullivan, Thune, Toomey, Whitehouse, and Wicker.

**Meetings:** Acting Administrator Wheeler met with Congressman Stauber (MN) regarding PolyMet Mining, on Monday, Jan. 28.

Acting Administrator Wheeler spoke with Congresswoman Jackie Speier (CA) regarding the Cargill Salt Ponds on Friday, Feb. 1.

### LOOK-A-HEAD

Feb. 4 The House and Senate are in session.

Feb. 5 SEPW to hold business meeting to consider the nominations of Acting Administrator Wheeler to be Administrator and Peter Wright to be AA for OLEM.

Feb. 6 The Subcommittee on Environment and Climate Change will hold a hearing entitled, "Time for Action: Addressing the Environmental and Economic Effects



Office of Congressional &  
Intergovernmental Relations

of Climate Change.” No EPA or other executive branch witnesses anticipated to attend.

Feb. 13            Local leaders from Frankfort, KY will visit DC and meet with EPA officials regarding an Opportunity Zone redevelopment project

Feb. 15            Government funding is set to expire for a portion of the federal government.

## **STORIES OF INTEREST**

### **CONGRESS:**

- Trump’s Nominee for the E.P.A.: A former agency official praises Andrew Wheeler, a career employee, for his qualifications and character. [ [HYPERLINK](https://www.nytimes.com/2019/01/31/opinion/letters/wheeler-nominee-epa.html) "https://www.nytimes.com/2019/01/31/opinion/letters/wheeler-nominee-epa.html" ]
- Wheeler addresses water priorities at Senate confirmation hearing. [ [HYPERLINK](https://waterfm.com/wheeler-addresses-water-priorities-senate-confirmation-hearing/) "https://waterfm.com/wheeler-addresses-water-priorities-senate-confirmation-hearing/" ]
- Members of US Congress launch PFAS action taskforce. [ [HYPERLINK](https://chemicalwatch.com/73792/members-of-us-congress-launch-pfas-action-taskforce) "https://chemicalwatch.com/73792/members-of-us-congress-launch-pfas-action-taskforce" ]

### **INTERGOV:**

- Bill would educate Indiana schools about radon testing. [ [HYPERLINK](https://www.theindychannel.com/news/call-6-investigators/bill-would-educate-indiana-schools-about-radon-testing) "https://www.theindychannel.com/news/call-6-investigators/bill-would-educate-indiana-schools-about-radon-testing" ]
- Kevin Stitt is adding to his team. Meet the governor's staff. [ [HYPERLINK](https://www.tulsaworld.com/photo/video/slideshows/kevin-stitt-is-adding-to-his-team-meet-the-governor/collection_6c4f3cd2-781b-584a-b0d1-95d8fa533570.html) "https://www.tulsaworld.com/photo/video/slideshows/kevin-stitt-is-adding-to-his-team-meet-the-governor/collection\_6c4f3cd2-781b-584a-b0d1-95d8fa533570.html" \ | "1" ]